SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Karkare was a great police officer, who laid down his life in the aftermath of 26/11 attacks. He was investigating certain cases. There is at least one case which is investigated where army officers are accused. The case is sub judice. I cannot pronounce the guilt or otherwise of the Army Officers. But there is indeed one case where Army officers are accused.

DR. T. SUBBARAM1 REDDY: Sir, it is an important issue. The hon. Minister has replied that, yes, he has some information that illegal arms and ammunition are being manufactured in some States. That means he has the authority to make those States to investigate. Even though it is a State Subject, it is a very serious matter. If it has come to the notice of the Home Ministry, they must take immediate action. I would like to know what action has been taken, if not, why don't you take immediate action to stop people from manufacturing illegal arms in those States, which you have identified?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, what I said was our agencies provide us information from time to time and we have information about States having taken action in respect of some cases of illegal manufacturing of arms. But I cannot place that information before this House until the State officially confirms that that was the case registered, investigated and action taken. I hope that the Members in the House who have been in the Government would know ths distinction between information gathered from agencies and information gathered officially from the State Governments.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Thank you, Sir. It is a serious matter because the North East has been flooded with illegal arms and we are the worst sufferers. There is a regular supply of illegal arms through the international borders. There are various examples and we have been informed that they have opened some illegal arms manufacturing units in the border areas. I would like to know whether the Government would look into such a serious matter.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have no information about illegal arms manufacturing units in the North East. But if the States report any such cases, I shall certainly share it with the House. But I have information that a large number of militant groups receive arms from across the border. They smuggle arms into the country through arms purchases from other countries, they are smuggled across the international border into the North East.

Difference in special allowances for CRPF personnel

*266.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide difference in special allowances for CRPF personnel deployed in naxalite areas and militancy affected areas like Jammu and Kashmir and North East; and

(b) if so, why the naxalite affected areas have been kept in a different category even as nearly 300 CRPF personnel have lost their lives in anti-naxal operations so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Special allowances are approved for Central Para Military Force (CPMF) personnel on the basis of the degree of hardship assessed, taking into account the risk involved, various environmental factors and stress being faced by the personnel in the area of deployment. Recently, Government have sanctioned risk-based allowances for CPMF personnel, upto the rank of Commandant, deployed in Left Wing Extremism (LWE-) affected areas. Also, risk based allowance has been approved for the personnel, upto the rank of Commandant, of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) which is a special force under the CRPF, mainly deployed in LWE affected areas. The above allowances are different from those applicable to J&K and NE areas. The allowances applicable for personnel of CoBRA Battalions are higher than the allowances applicable in J&K and NE areas.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the risk of terror is all over the same whether it is in Jammu & Kashmir, North East or in the 'Red Corridor' which Naxals want to build. So, the police personnel, the CRPF personnel, who are fighting those extremists and militants also need the same treatment all over. What has happened is that in J&K and North East, officers are paid, say, Rs.7,800 as Special Allowance but those who are fighting Naxals in other areas they get only Rs.6000 per month. So, this may seem small on paper but it affects and works on the morale of the Forces, which are working in that area. So, the answer, which is given, is not clear. So, my question is, how much increase actually has been effected, and why there is no parity in such allowances for the CRPF personnel who are fighting in all these militancy affected areas.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this has been an issue of some concern to me since I assumed the Office of Home Minister. Thankfully, the Sixth Central Pay Commission made a recommendation to that effect. Cabinet, while considering the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, approved, for the first time, the grant of a scheme of allowances for CPM officers for the rank of Commandant and below and other ranks in the battalions deployed in difficult areas, counter insurgency areas and high altitude areas. Keeping in view the allowances granted to Defence Forces Personnel in such or in similar areas and the detachment and other allowances granted to the CPMF personnel at present is to be worked out in consultation with the Department of Expenditure. In this, decision was taken, the exercise was commenced and I am happy to inform this House that on the 16th of April 2009 orders were issued granting a number of new allowances to the CPMF personnel. These fall under the following categories: 1. High altitude allowance 2. CPMF personnel deployed under Ops Control of Army or in area coordinates defined by the Army but not under Ops control 3. CPMF personnel deployed in areas affected by Left Wing extremism. So, under these three heads substantial relief has been granted to the CPMF Personnel by granting allowances. There are some

differences. I am not denying that. I am working on that. I have since recommended a narrowing of the differences in respect of CPMF from modified field area allowance to field area allowance. I think it is now under the consideration of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. I am confident that I will be able to make out a case and secure that allowance. There are some differences, but, please remember for the first time on 16th April, 2009 UPA won. Our Government granted these allowances to CPMF which brings in more or less on par with the Defence personnel. There are some differences. I am doing my best to work on it.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I really wonder, while the Minister was replying there are certain important decisions about more allowances being taken on 16th April. Why have they not mentioned in the answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter. Clarification has been given.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: No, then, Sir, you are limiting our option for only two supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Naturally, that is the rule of the House by consensus.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Prakash, in the second sentence of the answer I have not given the date but I have said 'recently' Government have sanctioned risk based-allowance. I must have something for supplementary otherwise, I have nothing to comment.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: My second supplementary is, while the Minister is already working on bringing about the parity because he also realises that mental block is created by such differential treatment. So, he is working on it. Can the Minister say that before the next session of Parliament this will be time limit?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will try harder.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, fairly large number of women CRPF personnel are also posted to these areas and when we talk about hardship assessments it need not necessarily be linked only to assessment which result in a higher allowance. It is also an issue of working conditions here. So, for women CRPF personnel who are posted in these areas or who are working with their male colleagues in these areas, the issues of working conditions, the issues of access to medical facilities, the issue of postings is also very important. So, would the Minister consider setting up a special cell to assess the hardships that woman CRPF personnel face when dealing with these extremist forces?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is a good suggestion. I will certainly consider it.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Thank you.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि जब इन फोर्सिस के, CRPF और COBRA, जो इन्होंने बताया है, सिपाही या कमांडेंट की death हो जाती है, उसके बाद उनकी families को जो

compensation दिया जाता है, क्या वह भी Army या Forces के मुताबिक दिया जाता है या उनसे भिन्न दिया जाता है? I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not have the information readily available. But, I am talking from my memory. There is some difference. And, at the moment, we are considering the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission in order to bring about parity among the Defence personnel and the CPMF personnel who die in action. We are working on that.

श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि केवल भत्तों और तनख्वाह में ही असमानता नहीं है, समाचार पत्रों में यह भी खबरें मिली हैं कि नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में जो हमारे police personnel काम करते हैं, उनको बहुत असुविधाएं हैं, जो उनके टेंट लगते हैं, उनमें toilet तक की व्यवस्था नहीं होती है और ऐसी विषम परिस्थितियों में वह उनका मुकाबला नहीं कर पाते। एक समाचार पत्र में छपा था कि toilet न होने के कारण, जब वे toilet गए तो उसी समय उग्रपंथियों ने, नक्सलपंथियों ने दो-तीन लोगों को मार गिराया। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि उनकी इस प्रकार की जो मूलभूत जरूरतें हैं या सुविधाएं हैं, वह प्रदान करने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in the recent incident where the first two constables killed were the State Police. They had set up an outpost and that outpost did not have toilet facilities and two members killed when they had gone into fields to answer calls of nature. Then followed a series of unfortunate incidents where a large number of lives were lost. The CRPF is called in aid of the State Police. Therefore, I have made it very clear. This is written in the Manual that the State Government has to provide the infrastructure facilities. When the CRPF is called, housing has to be provided, tents have to be provided, apart from other things, by the State administration. But, unfortunately, State Governments are unable to provide the basic infrastructure. When I specially went, the State Police and the paramilitary personnel are venturing into jungles or forests. It is not possible to provide infrastructure even to a minimal level. Tents are provided. Supplies are provided. But, it is not possible to provide proper toilets, etc., when they are venturing into forest or jungle. We are working with the State Government to use pre-fabricated material and put up temporary toilets where paramilitary forces are stationed for several days. The most recent experience is Lal Garh where it took us almost 6 or 7 days before we could find proper accommodation and proper toilet facilities for our paramilitary forces. This is the problem. The State Governments are saying that they are doing their best; I think, they have to do better. They have to provide the basic minimum infrastructure when they call the paramilitary to assist the State Police.

Employment growth

*267.SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the data for employment growth in the country during the last three years and the number of persons who were able to find job during this period;